

*Seoul Comm*

7 June 1976

[redacted]  
Okinawa Bureau, FBIS

Deputy Chief

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✓ EXEC REG

Dear Bill:

I want to thank you to begin with for your excellent informative letter on your TDY in Seoul in April. We have now carefully circulated each annex to the responsible Headquarters officers and have pulled together, I think, the answers you need. Let me go down the list of topics one by one.

1. Floor Plan: No one had problems with that. [redacted] surmised that there might be some minor adjustments, but none that would involve a change in the basic layout you proposed. You can work out the details with [redacted] on the spot. STAT  
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2. Wage Scale: The wage scale you proposed is approved in principle. The only hangup is the authorization of three unit chiefs. [redacted] of PM&CD wants to cogitate on that for a couple more days. STAT

3. Transportation: We concur in the purchase of a Nissan bus, as you recommend in your cable.

4. Communications: We are very pleased with the initial affirmative response you received from [redacted] to the proposal for a joint unclassified wireroom. The proposal also surfaced during the recent "regional review" which Jerry and I attended at State. [redacted] the Executive Director of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, brought it up unsolicited as an example of the kind of benefits an embassy gets from having an FBIS bureau affiliated with it. But this reaction notwithstanding, I miss in your letter your personal view pro or con. The feelings here are mixed. [redacted] and [redacted] point out properly that the joint wireroom does not offer us the same advantage in Seoul as in Amman because [redacted] is close enough that we can have our own circuit out of Seoul without saddling ourselves with the obligation to handle State's traffic. I accept [redacted] and [redacted] point but believe that it will always be easier to justify one unclassified wireroom in the same building than two, and that it ties the bureau's interests closer to the embassy's. Having taken the initiative, we can now write the rules by which the joint wireroom STAT  
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will be run; we might not if we are later forced to merge our wireroom with the embassy's in a State-originated economy move. Please advise me of your position by admin message. If we are all agreed, I will pull out our old request for the Amman joint wireroom, polish it up for Seoul and vet it through OC and State in time for implementation when you return to Seoul in August.

Assuming we have a joint wireroom, I concur that we should take over the Embassy's Mode V TCU and entry into the Taegu ASC. If [ ] is available by the time you go into operation, we might use the second [ ] channel as an altroute. OC has told us we can have it. Once we have [ ] we would use it as our primary route and probably the AUTODIN as our altroute. But when that time comes, we should take another look at our options and weigh reliability of [ ] against the cost of the available altroutes. STAT  
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5. Reception Survey and Antennas: Jack's reception survey confirms [ ] earlier findings concerning reception at the Embassy. FCS and ES strongly recommend that you seek embassy permission to set up an abbreviated longwire antenna on the roof. It would be a very low-profile antenna, probably not at all visible from the street. The longwire would supplement the fan dipoles, particularly during the inevitable fading at midevening. It would enable some reception of North and South Korea, Japan, the PRC and some Soviet Far East stations on the mediumwave and lower shortwave frequencies. In particular, Lopes believes you could pick up Peking Domestic Service and at least four PRC regionals with the longwire, thus enabling you to get a limited Chinese monitoring operation going even before the FSK installation is in place. Knowing the embassy's opposition to adding antennas on the chancery roof, we will have to leave it to your suasion to obtain the necessary permission. STAT

6. Paying for It: As you are aware, the fiscal outlook for the Transitional Quarter is very tight. By the time you start your TDY in Seoul, you should have from us a TQ spending authorization, based on your projections in OW#80. This message was very helpful. Throughout the TQ, you should keep us very closely advised of your spending as well as any changes in your projections.

I believe that covers it, Bill. Please let us know by admin message or cable if you have any questions or new information relevant

to planning. Unfortunately, I expect to be away from Headquarters during your TDY here. I want to wish you, [ ] and your entire family a very pleasant and interesting tour in Seoul.

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With best regards,

[ ]  
Acting Chief, Operations Group

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[ ] (7 Jun 76)

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